



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

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Governor Schwarzenegger Dedicates Lancaster Veterans Home to Senator William J. 'Pete' Knight

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued a proclamation to dedicate and name the Lancaster Veterans Home as the William J. 'Pete' Knight Veterans Home.

"Senator Knight was an extraordinary man who gave his heart and soul to our nation and state through his military and public service," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "It is fitting that this veterans home will be named to honor a man committed to serving his country."

The Governor signed the proclamation in Sacramento yesterday alongside members of the Knight family, CDVA Secretary Tom Johnson, other veterans and current and former legislators.

After the Governor signed the Executive Order, California Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson said "Other states have used their Veterans Homes to recognize the extraordinary contributions by veterans or heroes in our country and I think that this is an appropriate recognition for Senator Pete Knight's contributions to our country and to his community."

Construction on the William J. 'Pete' Knight home is scheduled to begin in June 2007 and be completed in September 2008.

Senator Pete Knight died May 7, 2004 from complications due to acute myelogenous leukemia.

Full text of the proclamation:

PROCLAMATION by the Governor of the State of California

Senator William J. "Pete" Knight was an extraordinary man, a decorated Veteran, and a legislative leader whose memory will live on through his lifelong contributions to our nation's military and our state's public affairs.

Senator Knight sustained and enhanced the noble traditions of the United States Air Force, where he earned the rank of Colonel. During his 32-year tenure with the United States Air Force, Senator Knight flew 253 missions over Vietnam. In addition to his fearsome combat service, Senator Knight established the still unbroken world speed record in a fixed wing aircraft, flying the X-15 rocket research aircraft to 4,250 miles per hour.

Senator Knight faithfully served the people of California as a City Councilman, Mayor, Assemblyman, and Senator. As a member of the Senate Rules, Education, and Revenue and Taxation Committees, he represented his constituents with diligence and dedication. As Vice-Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, he advocated tirelessly on behalf of his fellow veterans, shaping legislation to fund California's Veterans Homes.

California's great veterans have fought for our nation in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and other wars around the globe. California's Veterans Homes provide our disabled and aging veterans with rehabilitative, residential, and medical care services. The Veterans Home at Lancaster is one of five new Homes being built in California and a testament to Senator Knight's unending devotion to his fellow veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby dedicate and name the California Veterans Home to be constructed at Lancaster as the William J. "Pete" Knight Veterans Home.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this the twenty-eighth day of June 2004.

/s/ Arnold Schwarzenegger

Governor of California

CDVA LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The California Department of Veterans Affairs' Legislative Update is available on the department's website at <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/cdva/lawregs.asp>. This update, which tracks legislation that affects the department, is produced monthly during legislative sessions.

CAL-VET ANNOUNCES TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE LINES

Always seeking innovative ways to better serve veterans, Cal-Vet Loans, the Farm and Home Purchases Division of the California Department of Veterans Affairs announces that toll-free telephone numbers have been established for each Cal-Vet Field Office. These numbers will be included in telephone directories and on the website. When customers call the department's 800 line and select the option for Cal-Vet general loan information or the District Offices, they will have the ability to connect to the Field Office of their choice. These new toll-free telephone numbers are now in operation.

Below is a list of the toll-free numbers for the Field Offices:

<u>Field Office</u>	<u>Toll-Free Number</u>
Bakersfield	(866) 653-2507
Fairfield	(866) 653-2506
Fresno	(866) 653-2511
Redding	(866) 653-2508
Riverside	(800) 700-2127
Sacramento	(866) 653-2510
San Diego	(866) 653-2504
Santa Clara	(866) 653-2506
Ventura	(866) 653-2509

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